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### **THREE MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that defendants in three unrelated cases entered guilty pleas before United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii, in U.S. District Court in Fresno.

KEVIN RICHARD HOUSE, 45, of Visalia, California, pleaded guilty to possession of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. He agreed to accept a sentence that will include a federal prison term of seventy (70) months. According to court documents filed in this case, HOUSE came to the attention of law enforcement in March 2005 through the efforts of Children's Last Hope, an online child advocacy group based in Australia. A member of that organization observed, captured, and then forwarded to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ("NCMEC") evidence showing that a person, subsequently identified as HOUSE, had made sexually explicit comments while in a Yahoo! chat room entitled "Little Girl Pics:1." The comments were made about an image of child pornography made available in the chat room via a link, and they were followed by a link to a different image of child pornography.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, NCMEC forwarded the tip to the Tulare County Sheriff's Department which, through an extensive investigation, was able to identify HOUSE as the person posting items in the Yahoo! chat room. HOUSE e-mailed links to other images of child pornography to an undercover sheriff's detective, discussed his sexual interest in children, and told the detective that he was studying to become a physician's assistant. The Visalia Police Department and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office in Fresno assisted the Tulare County Sheriff's Department in the investigation and arrest of HOUSE.

A federal magistrate allowed HOUSE to attend a 42-day intensive inpatient sex-offender program and then placed him on home detention with electronic monitoring. HOUSE admitted possessing between 300 and 600 images of child pornography that he had obtained via the internet, that some of the images were of prepubescent children, and that some of the images depicted sadistic or masochistic conduct. HOUSE faces a potential prison term of ten (10) years, lifetime supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000 when he is sentenced on April 10, 2006.

TED SNYDER, 58, of Hanford, California, pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. SNYDER admitted that on March 31, 2005, he possessed books, magazines, and other printed matter, including material obtained by use of the internet, that constituted child pornography. He was charged by the Kings County District Attorney's Office with multiple counts of lewd acts with a child, forcible sodomy, oral copulation, continuous sexual abuse of a child, and conspiracy and sentenced to a state prison term for that case on June 6, 2005. The federal case was the result of an investigation by the Kings County Sheriff's Department, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Fresno, California, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, Computer Crimes Investigation Unit. According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, SNYDER faces a potential prison term of ten (10) years, lifetime supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000, his sentencing is set for April 10, 2006.

VICTOR ALAN LANG, 40, of North Fork, California, also pleaded guilty to possession of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. When arrested in 2003, LANG was a seventh-grade teacher at the Oak Creek Intermediate School near Oakhurst, California. He told investigating agents that he had been obtaining via the internet, and then saving on his home computer, sexually explicit images of minors, specifically 12 year-old girls. He came to the attention of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Fresno, California after agents in the Newark, New Jersey ICE office had determined that LANG had purchased access to various web sites containing child pornography. As part of his plea agreement, he admitted that he possessed these images on February 1, 2003. According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, LANG faces a potential prison term of five (5) years, a term of supervised release of up to three (3) years, and a fine of up to \$250,000 when sentenced on April 10, 2006.

United States Attorney Scott stated that, "Those who would use the internet to sexually exploit children run a serious risk of getting caught and will receive appropriately stiff punishment when prosecuted. One of the Justice Department's highest priorities is to support the efforts of children's advocacy groups, as well as local and federal law enforcement agencies, that investigate predators lurking online."

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